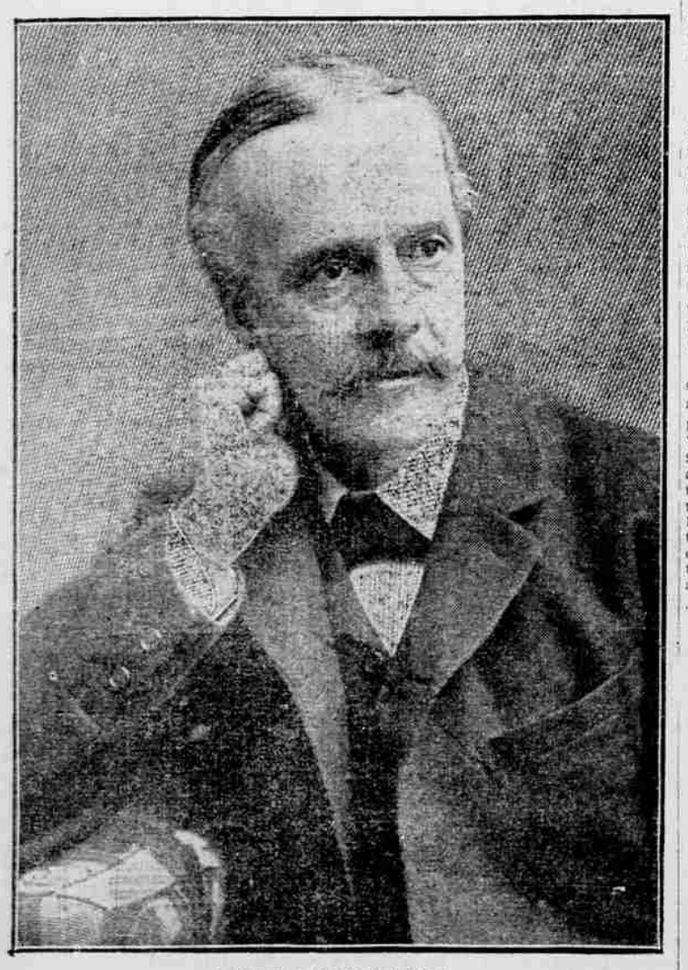
Figures of Prominence in the News of the Day--Makers of History at Home and Abroad

MEN OF THE WEEK

Stories and Sketches of the Leaders of Today in Thought and Action Here and Elsewhere

THE NEW PRIME MINISTER OF ENGLAND



ARTHUR JAMES BALFOUR.

ARTHUR JAMES BALFOUR, England's new prime minister, is one of the few remaining decidedly interesting figures in the public life of Great Britain. England has had twenty-one premiers in the last 100 years. In the score of his predecessors there has been no figure exactly like that of Arthur Balfour, who succeeded Lord Salisbury on July 12. There have been philosophers in the long line—most statesmen come to be more or less philosophical under the responsibilities of state—and there have been literary men and scholars. But there has been exactly no such combination of philosopher and scholar as Mr. Balfour. He has carried into politics the manner and disposition of the student, and is in some ways one of the most shadowy figures in the line of premiers.

Mr. Balfour is now fifty-four years old, but he has always impressed people somehow as being a young man. Perhaps this is because politics has not been able to change the characteristics of his nature from what they were when he first became known. His mother was a sister to Lord Salisbury, and he always had the powerful support and the valuable counsel of his uncle, the late premier. For a time he was a member of the famous Fourth Party of free lances whom Randolph Churchill led in Parliament, but he abandoned his three associates after awhile to become a steady-going Conservative, and in due course was secretary for Scotland, then secretary for Ireland, and finally first lord of the treasury and leader of his party in the House of Commons.

It is said of him that he is the most unbusinesslike leader the House of Commons has had in the memory of living men. Entirely devoid of anything like method or system, he has little or no capacity for management. Time after time, running right through each session, he has blundered through sheer neglect; yet his followers bear with him for his excellent qualities as a debater. It is characteristic of the man that he boasts of never reading a newspaper. He is effeminate and languid—these traits have won for him the universal nickname of "Clara." He prefers to lie abed until noon, reading philosophical treatises and French novels.

He is tall and slender, with shoulders sloped forward after the fashion of the scholar. He is distinguished looking, nevertheless, and has the head and expression of a philosopher. His eyes, shaded by glasses, are mild and contemplative. His whole demeanor suggests the man of easy-going temperament, the individual who prefers to go through life any old way so long as he does not encounter any difficult problems to disturb his equanimity and placid front. When seen in the House of Commons he is usually sprawled on the flat of his back in his chair, feet on his desk, arms dangling listlessly at his sides, his head on his chest, eyes shut—apparently doing nothing, caring less what others do, and engaged solely in the recreation of a quiet nap. Even under the most virulent of attacks directly in his presence, he never rises or opens his eyes. He seems to care for nothing that is said of him. To the casual observer he appears to be in a state of mental and physical collapse.

But directly opposed to these languid and effeminate characteristics is the really remarkable nature of the man within when he is aroused. When ready to crop into activity on any subject he slowly gathers himself up for the effort. He undergoes a startling transformation. An intense nervous energy replaces his listlessness. He straightens out from his position of spineless prostration. His arms get into motion, and he gesticulates passionately, his voice vibrating with anger. Apparently he is worked up to a frenzy, when he is merely pouring out a flood of biting ridicule on his victim, in the meantime losing not a particle of his perfect mental control.

It is also characteristic of Mr. Balfour that on the very day he was appointed to succeed Lord Salisbury as the premier, he attended a house party, and not even to his most intimate friends hinted a word of the great honor that had just been conferred upon him. They, as well as the rest of the world, were obliged to wait until a few days later when the newspapers got ahold of the intelligence and proclaimed it broadcast.

Years ago it was said that he had only one rival in the House as a debater—Chamberlain—and that he had a gift of real oratory which only Gladstone and Bright possessed with him. "He has the intellectual integrity of Bright, and the power which Gladstone possessed in an even higher degree of broadening the range of debate, and lifting it into a purer region."

His predecessors in the last 100 years have included statesmen like Pitt, Peel, Gladstone, Disraeli, and Salisbury; Wellington, the famous soldier; the bigoted Perceval, who was killed by an assassin; men of some fame through their pens, like Canning, Lord John Russell, and Rosebery (and, of course, we must repeat the names of Disraeli and Gladstone); and such other men as Addington, Grenville, Portland, Liverpool, Goderich, Grey, Melbourne, Derby, Aberdeen, and Palmerston. Only a few of these men made any real impression on British history, by their own personality. Most of them are names and nothing more. How will Balfour stand in future history? It is not likely that he will be a commanding figure in that history, but he will be an interesting one. As philosopher and student, he could hardly fail to be interesting. He will try to do his duty with the breadth of aim and the thoroughness of the philosopher. He has surprised his associates several times by his ability to handle practical affairs with efficiency, and will probably do so once again. But it is not likely that he will remain long the leader of his party. It is likely that a stronger, less philosophical, less indifferent man will in time squeeze him to one side. And it is not likely that Mr. Balfour will greatly care.

Mr. Balfour has produced two books, "A Defense of Philosophic Doubt," and "The Foundations of Belief," both of which have won what may be called a "success of estimation," but which have not been generally read, and have not had a great influence upon the current of human thought.

Mr. Balfour has his recreations. He is a cycler, and is the president of the "National Cyclers' Union." He is even better known as a golfer. If Mr. Balfour does anything strenuously, it is to play golf. If not a brilliant player, he is at least a good one, and in 1894, he was captain of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrew's.

COMING MARRIAGE OF A BISHOP

THE Right Rev. Henry C. Potter, Protestant Episcopal Bishop of New York, is going to follow the example of some eminent Biblical characters, and marry in his maturity.

Henry Codman Potter was born in Schenectady, N. Y., in 1836, and is, therefore, sixty-six years of age. His father, the Rev. Dr. Alonzo Potter, was an instructor at Union College. Ten years later the Rev. Dr. Alonzo Potter was elected Bishop of Western Pennsylvania, Bishop Potter was graduated from the Episcopal College in Philadelphia. He began life as a clerk. Subsequently he entered the Episcopal Seminary at Fairfax, Va., where he received his theological training.

He was advanced rapidly in the ministry and finally succeeded his uncle, the Right Rev. Horatio Potter, as Bishop of New York. When he was a young man he was married to Miss Eliza Rogers Jacobs, the daughter of one of his parishioners in a small Pennsylvania town, where he began his ministry. Mrs. Potter died on June 30, 1901, from heart failure, induced by the intense heat. The Bishop has five children, Alonzo Potter, Mrs. Charles H. Russell, Mrs. Mason Davidge, Mrs. W. H. Hyde and Miss Potter.

Bishop Potter's bride-elect is Mrs. Alfred Corning Clark, widow of the millionaire partner in the Singer Sewing Machine Company. She is about fifty-five years of age, and is said to be still a beautiful woman. Her four sons are prominent in society. One of them, Robert S. Clark, is a lieutenant in the fighting Ninth Infantry Regiment, which was almost decimated in its service in the Philippines. Mrs. Clark's husband died eight years ago, leaving her a fortune estimated at $8,000,000.

With this vast wealth at her disposal she began to devote herself to ameliorating the condition of the poor. She purchased a great plot of land in New York near West End Avenue, between Sixty-eighth and Sixty-ninth Streets, and erected six-story flats, consisting of two, three, and four-room apartments, renting for from $1.65 to $4.50 per week. Everyone of the twelve buildings contains bath rooms, shower baths, up-to-date laundries, and other luxuries. In these "model flats," as they are called, are more than 360 families enjoying at tenement rates the cleanliness and general advantages of high-priced flats.

Mrs. Clark also provides for the Alfred Corning Clark Neighborhood House, at Rivington and Cannon Streets, which provides entertainment and instruction for hundreds of the children of the East Side. Kindergarten, cooking schools and sewing and manual training classes are among the advantages offered by this institution. Next to this building is the Clark Memorial Chapel which cost the widow $100,000.

Mrs. Clark has built model tenements, the Young Men's Christian Association building, a museum, library, gymnasium, and other buildings of general utility at her summer place of residence, Cooperstown.

Her home in New York city, at Eighty-ninth Street and Riverside Drive, is a palatial residence, built of brick and marble, in the Italian style of architecture. The house and grounds cost $1,000,000.

This residence is directly opposite the new Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument at Eighty-ninth Street and the Hudson River. Mrs. Clark was for a long time opposed to the erection of the monument at that point, but when finally overruled, was one of the very enthusiastic celebrants on last Decoration Day of the unveiling of that handsome memorial, and her mansion was gaily decorated in honor of the event.

BISHOP POTTER AND MRS. CLARK.

A RAILROAD WARRIOR

THERE is a big fight on between the Pennsylvania Railroad Company and George J. Gould for the control of the principal railroad interests of the country.

Mr. Gould has for some time been regarded as one of the controlling forces of the railroad world. Not only does he control the great Missouri Pacific system in the Southwest, together with several tributary lines, but he controls the elevated railroad system of New York city and also the Western Union Telegraph Company, whose lines penetrate to every part of the country that is reached by a railroad.

When Jay Gould died about a dozen years ago he left an estate valued at $90,000,000 to his four sons and two daughters. With the exception of a special bequest of $5,000,000 given to George as compensation for ten years of assiduous service in looking after the interests of his father, this great estate was placed in trust for the equal benefit of the six children. George J. Gould was made the chief trustee and upon his shoulders has fallen the burden of management. So well has this estate been cared for that its aggregate value today is almost double the original figure. Until recently the Goulds have been content to guard their inheritance by preventing any encroachments upon their interests. With the development of the "community of interest" idea and the consequent combination of railroad properties, however, George J. Gould has stepped to the front with progressive vigor. He has taken prompt measures to become the dominating figure in the railroad territory traversed by the Gould lines, and he has invested largely in other railroad properties with which his own lines exchange traffic. Expansion as well as consolidation has been his aim, and he has met the changing conditions in railroad management in a most liberal spirit. His purchase of a controlling interest in the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad is one of his most important achievements. The union of that road with the Missouri Pacific system strengthens the position of the latter and makes it secure against any possible attacks from rivals. The Goulds now own the Missouri Pacific, the Denver and Rio Grande, the Rio Grande Western, the St. Louis Southwestern, the Texas and Pacific, the International and Great Northern, the Wabash, and the Wheeling and Lake Erie.

Mr. Gould is also one of the largest stockholders in the Union Pacific system, and he is an influential member of the Harriman syndicate, which controls many thousands of miles of Western railroads.

Personally, George J. Gould is amiable and straightforward. He has a handsome face, a stalwart form, and determined manner. Sociable in disposition, he is also domestic in his tendencies, and his chief enjoyments are obtained in the home circle. He is an adept in all athletic and out-of-door sports, and his magnificent country seat, Georgian Court, at Lakewood, is equipped with every convenience and appliance for healthful recreation. Mr. Gould and his wife are constant and generous entertainers.

GEORGE J. GOULD.

ENGLAND'S ACTIVE STATE SECRETARY

THE widespread comment aroused by the recent statement in the House of Commons by the Marquis of Lansdowne, England's secretary of state for foreign affairs, has served to bring that gentleman sharply into prominence once more. According to the British press, Lord Lansdowne is the one man in the whole of the King's dominions who should understand thoroughly, and be able to make clear, the situation in regard to affairs in China and the progress of the negotiations for a dual alliance with Italy. The comment has been extensively raised that Lord Lansdowne failed to make clear these two important points in his statement in the House of Commons.

In the world of British politics there is no man more difficult to assign to his proper position than the Marquis of Lansdowne. During the years he has been before the public as a statesman he has had a most remarkable and brilliant career. Yet he has never in a single instance been called a brilliant man. He has been criticised, blamed, held responsible for almost everything that went wrong, and his resignation from the offices he has held has been demanded openly by the press time and time again. Nowhere was there evidenced the slightest enthusiasm in his defense. And yet to him may be given the nominal credit for many of the most important triumphs of statesmanship in England for several years. With him rests the nominal credit for the Anglo-Japanese alliance. Just how far he personally is responsible for these important accomplishments is known only to the inner council. For years the Marquis of Lansdowne has been one of England's strong men, one of the prominent factors in her world of politics. His advancement has been steady and marked. Yet he has been hounded down and severely criticised by the press and public.

In Mr. Gladstone's ministry he was made lord of the treasury, which position he held from 1869 to 1872. Then for two years he was under secretary for war. When, in 1880, Gladstone returned to power, Lord Lansdowne was made under secretary for India. He was further honored three years later by being created governor general of Canada. In this office he served out his full term, and to such credit to himself and his management of affairs in the provinces that in 1888 Queen Victoria appointed him governor general of India. Those high in authority had recognized his ability and remarkable grasp of Great Britain's affairs, and, consequently, when the time came when they found themselves in need of a man with a vast capacity for executive ability, and at the same time a man who could remain unruffled amid all sorts of trials and denunciations, even by his friends, they turned to Lansdowne. This time they made him secretary of state for war. That put him in the cabinet and made him one of England's most powerful statesmen.

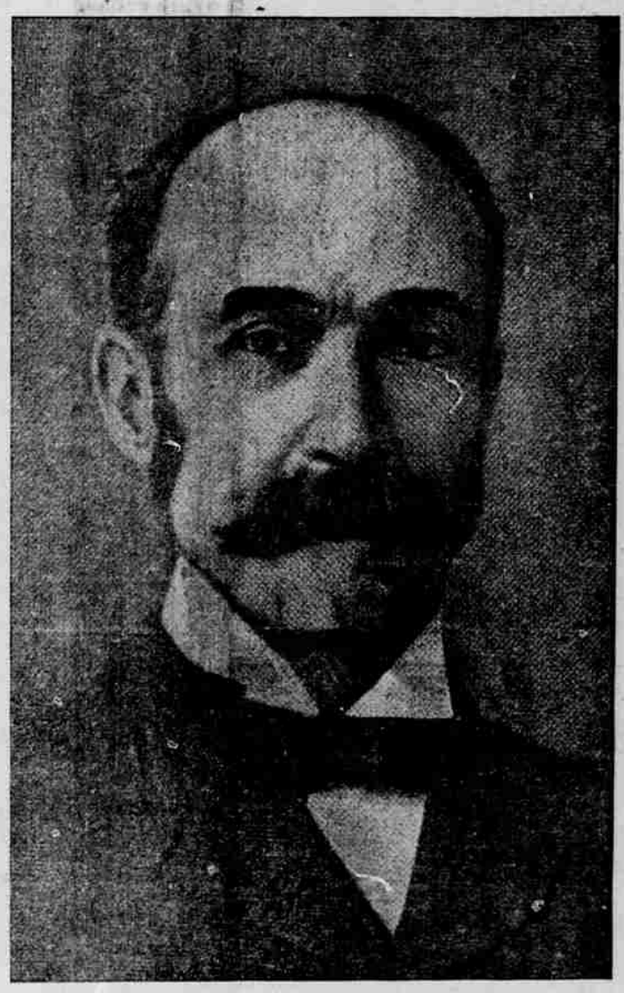
In this position, as head of the war office, Lord Lansdowne was responsible for the condition in which Great Britain went to war with the Boers. From the beginning of the war to the dissolution of the cabinet in 1900 he was subjected to the most virulent criticism from all classes of the British public. The inadequacy of the army supplies was laid to his door, and he was hounded and reviled on that score. The commander-in-chief of the army, Lord Wolseley, definitely charged him with having obstructed practical men in the execution of their duty. Press and public were alike outspoken in demanding his resignation. Yet he retained his calm and dignified manner; he went right on with his work; he studied the situation for himself and acted accordingly. Still the public was firmly convinced that Lord Salisbury would at length bow to popular sentiment and at the first opportunity allow the secretary for war to retire graciously from public life.

Great was the astonishment, therefore, when it was announced to the nation that, with the selection of the cabinet, which existed until his recent retirement from active public life, Lord Salisbury had chosen the Marquis of Lansdowne as secretary for foreign affairs, the most important position, next to that of the prime minister himself.

In the general explanation on the part of the press that followed his appointment as secretary for foreign affairs, the only good thing that has been said of Lord Lansdowne is that he speaks French fluently. Beyond that, no man knows his capacity as a foreign minister.

Born in 1845, the Marquis of Lansdowne is a man of long descent. The enviable distinction of being the twenty-sixth baron of Kerry and Liznaw, a title founded in 1181, is his. He is, moreover, one of the largest of British landowners, owning large estates in England, Ireland, and Scotland. In 1869 he married a daughter of the first Duke of Abercorn. His son, the Earl of Kerry, holds a good record as extra A. D. C. to Lord Roberts in South Africa.

Whether statesman by his own right or mere mouthpiece for the master minds of the British Empire, Lord Lansdowne holds a position in Britain that commands attention from all the world-powers.



THE MARQUIS OF LANSDOWNE.

FUTURE ARMY CHIEF

GEN. HENRY C. CORBIN stands a good chance of being General Miles' successor as Commander-in-Chief of the United States Army.

General Corbin's military career has been one of brilliant success. During the civil war he rose to the rank of colonel at the age of twenty-three, and also to the brevet rank of brigadier-general of volunteers. He had commenced the study of law previous to the war, but, at the commencement of hostilities, entered the Union army as second lieutenant, Seventy-ninth Ohio volunteers, being then nineteen years of age. He served with the Army of the Cumberland until the close of the war, reaching the rank mentioned.

On May 11, 1866, Corbin was appointed a second lieutenant in the regular army and assigned to the Seventeenth Infantry. On July 28 of the same year he was promoted to captain in the Thirty-eighth Infantry. On November 11, 1869, he was transferred to the Twenty-fourth Infantry. On January 13, 1880, Captain Corbin was appointed a major in the Adjutant General's Bureau. On June 7, 1889, he became lieutenant colonel and assistant adjutant general and was made colonel on May 26, 1896. On February 25, 1898, just before the war with Spain, he arrived at the grade of brigadier general and adjutant general of the army, the head of his bureau. In August, 1898, the President appointed him a major general of volunteers, which commission he declined.

General Corbin rendered most meritorious service during the war with Spain by reason of his great administrative ability and tireless energy.

He won the unreserved confidence of both the President and the Secretary of War. His voice was always influential in the determination of all important military questions, and particularly in all matters relating to the mobilization of the volunteers. At the close of the war, the Administration desired to reward General Corbin suitably for these services, but having reached the highest grade in his department, it was impossible to promote him without action by Congress.

There was some opposition to raising the office of adjutant general from the grade of brigadier general to major general. It was alleged that it would be made a pretext for the instant demand by the other ten staff chiefs for similar rank. Much of this antagonism was obviated, however, by so drawing the bill that the new grade expires with Corbin's retirement.

General Corbin's present rank does not give him any additional authority, but it raised his pay from $5,500 to $7,500 a year. His allowance for rent was increased from $720 to $864 a year. He does not retire until September 15, 1906.

It is, perhaps, not generally known, that Corbin was with President Garfield when he was shot, and at his bedside at Elberon, where he died. General Corbin has had experience as an Indian fighter, having served ten years on the plains in Kansas, New Mexico, Arizona, and Texas. He was also secretary of the Sitting Bull commission.

GEN. H. C. CORBIN.